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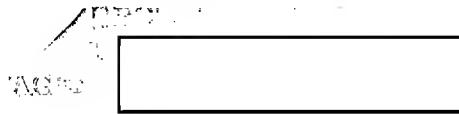
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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North Korea - Communist China: North Korean - Chinese relations have deteriorated to the point where Pyongyang is now openly critical of Peking in non-Communist countries.

During the past few weeks North Korean officials in several neutral as well as Communist capitals have sharply criticized the Chinese for recent Red Guard poster attacks against Pyongyang. The North Korean consul general in New Delhi, for example, told Indian officials that Peking's "filthy slander" did not stem from Red Guard excesses, but was instigated by the "leading clique." [In addition to its verbal attacks, the North Korean Government reportedly closed down a Chinese school and has forced the few remaining Chinese technicians to live in the embassy compound.]

Over the past two years, North Korea has gradually modified its pro-Chinese stand in the Sino-Soviet dispute. Last May it began privately criticizing Chinese policies toward the Soviet Union and other Communist states. In August, Pyongyang publicly confirmed its movement to an independent position.

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NOTES

UK-NATO: [London plans to go ahead with the proposed Anglo-Soviet "treaty of friendship and co-operation," despite sharp criticism from its NATO allies. According to a senior British official, London hopes to have the text ready to be signed during Foreign Secretary Brown's scheduled visit to Moscow in May. Far from trying to convince the NATO partners of the wisdom of this course, London specifically wants to make the treaty a bilateral accomplishment and does not plan to have discussions with the North Atlantic Council, or even to show it the text. According to the official, the council will be "kept informed."]

USSR: On 2 March, Moscow began sending Cosmos-144 weather data to the US. The satellite was launched only two days earlier. The short interval between the launch and the passage of data to the US--in contrast to the two months that elapsed after the launch of the previous weather satellite Cosmos 122--reflects increasing Soviet confidence in this system, which has been undergoing flight tests for two and a half years.

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